From local adaptation to range sizes

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Community context and habitat connectivity are crucial factors in local adaptation to environmental change (this thesis)

Competition helps adaptation under high dispersal (this thesis)

“Evolution on islands and archipelagos can eventually lead to the formation of new, autochthonous species. In order for evolution to proceed to this degree, islands must be relatively large and stable, otherwise populations will not survive long enough to undergo sufficient local adaptation” (MacArthur & Wilson 1967, this thesis).

Ultimately, only a few ecological processes are important in determining a species range size: dispersal to a new habitat, successful colonization of that habitat and (avoidance of) local extinctions (this thesis).

“Irrational held truths may be more harmful than reasoned errors” (Thomas Henry Huxley)

“We can explain why one species ranges widely and is very numerous, and why another allied species has a narrow range and is rare” (this thesis, replying to Charles Darwin)

" The hardest thing in the world to understand is the Income Tax " Albert Einstein